



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Roger Berliner

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Montgomery Councilmember Roger Berliner Testifies in Annapolis on Energy Disclosure

Proposed State Bill Would Require Home Sellers to Provide Information to Potential Buyers on Energy Costs of Property

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ROCKVILLE, Md., March 11, 2010—Montgomery County District 1 Councilmember Roger Berliner today testified in Annapolis before the Environmental Matters Committee of Maryland's House of Delegates on a proposed bill that would require home sellers to disclose 12 months of utility usage information to potential buyers. The measure is similar to a Montgomery County bill that was sponsored by Councilmember Berliner and was adopted in 2008.

The legislation in the House of Delegates was introduced by Delegate Maggie McIntosh of Baltimore and is co-sponsored by Delegates William Bronrott, Al Carr, Tom Hucker, Anne Kaiser, Karen Montgomery and Kirill Reznik all of Montgomery County. Del. McIntosh chairs the House Environmental Matters Committee. A companion bill has been introduced in the Maryland Senate and is supported among others by Senators Brian Frosh, Nancy King, Mike Lenett, and Richard Madaleno all from Montgomery County.

"It is gratifying that my legislation is now serving as a model for the state," said Councilmember Berliner. "We worked hard to create a law in Montgomery County that helps consumers understand how much they will pay for energy in their new home, how they can reduce those costs and how it can be done in a way that is not burdensome on the business community. I commend the state legislature for using this model to benefit all residents of Maryland."

The legislation mirrors the law Councilmember Berliner authored for Montgomery County. That measure requires sellers to provide copies of electric, gas and home heating oil bills or cost and usage history for a single-family home for the 12 months prior to sale. Montgomery's law also requires sellers to provide information about home energy efficiency improvements, including the benefit of conducting home energy audits

To find more information about the Montgomery County legislation, go to http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/bill/2008/20080422_31-07.PDF.

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